

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 NIC-01 AGR-20 EB-11 SWF-02

COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EUR-25 /186 W
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R 101359Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6165

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4368

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CH JA

SUBJ: 1973 PRC IMPORTS OF TUNISIAN FERTILIZER

REF: HONG KONG 7358

1. PRC IMPORTED 11,335 METRIC TONS (MT) OF TRIPLE SUPERPHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FROM TUNISIA IN 1973 VALUED AT 486,970 TUNISIAN DINARS (ABOUT \$1,170,000). IN ADDITION TO FERTILIZER, PRC PURCHASED 11,500 MT OF PHOSPHATE ROCK FROM TUNISIA IN 1973 VALUED AT 47,685 DINARS (ABOUT \$115,000) AND 102,649 MT IN 1972.
2. PRC HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH GOT FOR SOME TIME POSSIBILITY OF GOT USING FERTILIZER AND/OR PHOSPHATE ROCK TO PAY FOR PORTION OF DRAWINGS AGAINST \$40 MILLION CHINESE LOAN SIGNED IN SEPT 1972. GOT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RESISTING THIS ATTEMPT BECAUSE IT PREFERS SELL ROCK AND PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER FOR FREE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AT PRESENT HIGH WORLD MARKET PRICE.

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3. DURING FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI'S SCHEDULED VISIT

TO PRC JULY 11-19 THIS ISSUE EXPECTED TO BE RAISED.
ACCOMPANYING CHATTI WILL BE LARGELY ECONOMICALLY
ORIENTED DELEGATION INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS: AHMED FEKIH,
CHIEF OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIVISION, MOFA,
MONCEF ZAAFRANE, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN COOPERATION,
MINISTRY OF PLAN, AND HOUCINE OUESLATI, MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL ECONOMY.

4. COMMENT: GOT MAY WELL MAKE SOME GESTURE TO PRC ON
FERTILIZER ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IF NEW CHINESE AID
BEING OFFERED, BUT PROBABLY NOT IN QUANTITIES NOR AT
PRICES DESIRED BY PRC.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FERTILIZERS, PHOSPHATES, IMPORT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS04368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740184-0287
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740759/aaaabywz.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HONG KONG 7358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1973 PRC IMPORTS OF TUNISIAN FERTILIZER
TAGS: ETRD, CH, JA
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005